

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes¹

September 18, 2009

Casa Las Palmas, Santa Barbara, CA

Note: This document will be posted on line at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>. Audio recordings of this and other Council meetings are available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Attendance: At peak, twelve of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Public attendance varied from 4 to 10 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

The draft key outcomes from the July 17, 2009 meeting were adopted as final.

Superintendent's Report

Todd Jacobs, CINMS Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Operations, filled in for an absent Superintendent Chris Mobley. Todd provided an oral report, highlighting:

- A recent announcement by NOAA Administrator Jane Lubchenco concerning plans for NOAA to increase engagement with the recreational fishing community;
- SAC members are all invited to attend the annual volunteer recognition dinner hosted by the Park and Sanctuary on October 20th in Ventura;
- SAC members are also encouraged to enjoy the Santa Barbara Harbor Seafood Festival on October 10th;
- Congratulations to the Council's Conservation Working Group, recent recipient of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' Partner of the Year award!;
- Forward progress on the new CINMS/UCSB building.

Meeting Schedule for 2010

The Council adopted their 2010 meeting schedule, as follows:

- Friday January 29 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday March 19 (Ventura)
- Friday May 21 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday July 16 (Ventura)
- Friday September 24 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday November 19 (Ventura)

Council Member Announcements

A number of Council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). Audio recordings are available upon request.

Ship Strike Reduction Actions

Recent sightings/research activities on large cetaceans

Natalie Senyk gave a brief presentation on recent whale sightings in the Santa Barbara Channel. Sighting maps for the 2009 season were presented that showed the location of whale sightings relative to the shipping lanes. Sightings data came from aerial surveys, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteers aboard whale watch vessels, and boat surveys conducted by John Calambokidis (Cascadia Research). In the week prior on the

¹ Adopted by the Sanctuary Advisory Council on November 20, 2009.

Shearwater, John Calambokidis observed 200 whales on the backside of San Miguel Island and western Santa Barbara Channel. Bob Warner asked if remotely sensing krill from airplanes is an effective and possible way to predict whale presence. John Calambokidis responded that indirect sensing of krill is possible through chlorophyll concentrations, but predictive capacity is limited.

Local Notice to Mariners

Sean Hastings explained that in late July a NOAA request was made for a US Coast Guard-issued Local Notice to Mariners, recommending that ships slow down in the “whale advisory zone” within the Santa Barbara Channel. However, there was a problem getting the notice to go live. The problem has been resolved and notices should now be going out. The notice will also be broadcasted over NOAA weather radio.

Update on ship traffic activity

Captain Richard McKenna provided the Council with a brief update on ship traffic activity. On July 1, the California Air Resource Board implemented a new rule that requires ships to operate on low sulfur fuel within 24 miles of shore. The percentage of ships, mostly tankers, that now travel an east/west route outside the northern Channel Islands is increasing. In July 2009, only 7% of outbound and 22% of inbound ships traveled outside the islands. In July 2009, this percentage increased to 17.4% for outbound ships and 27% for inbound ships. This percentage could be as high as 50% by the end of September. Navy operations based out of Point Mugu are doing their best to accommodate these ships. This shift in ship traffic could benefit whales inside the Channel, but whales on the outer edges of the islands may be at greater risk.

Ship Strike Reduction Recommendations, Part 1

Sean Hastings gave a presentation to the Council summarizing the Ship Strike Subcommittee’s recommendations:

- Continue and expand research and monitoring efforts;
- Consider appropriateness of changes to vessel behavior in the Santa Barbara Channel;
- Explore changes to the Santa Barbara Channel Traffic Separation Scheme;
- Continue and expand education and outreach;
- Explore incentives and mandate based options for vessel speed reduction;
- Apply an adaptive management approach for the implementation of the recommendations; and
- Continue to engage and involve relevant agencies, stakeholders, and the maritime industry groups in the consideration and implementation of these recommendations.

Bruce Steele (Commercial Fishing SAC Member) asked how much of the Sanctuary’s time and resources were going into this process. Sean responded that this project did take up a lot of time, but volunteers also made contributions to this process.

Public comment (morning)

John Calambokidis commented that the ship strike issue is broader than the CINMS. Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) is having similar issues with humpback whales in the shipping lane. CINMS and GFNMS could develop a partnership on these issues. He also mentioned that if the shipping lanes are shifted to the outside of the islands, other whale species could be affected, particularly fin whales that prefer deeper water. The research should be done before any decisions are made. Other areas for research could include behavior of whales in shipping lanes and their reaction to ships and daily seasonal timing of vulnerabilities.

Ship Strike Reduction Recommendations, Part 2

The Council discussed the ship strike subcommittee recommendations. Bob Warner (Research SAC Member) asked if the recommendations were broad enough to include ship traffic and whales on the outside of the islands. Mark Steele was interested in whether the diurnal behavior of whales was captured in the recommendations.

Mark Steele also expressed concern over whether overflight resources were being well spent since the notice to mariners seems to be ignored. Sean Hastings responded that that staff is aware that the aerial surveys are costly, but the Sanctuary is constantly evaluating whether the funds are being spent in an efficient manner. In this case, the whales are a valued protected resource, and the Sanctuary believes the funds are being spent appropriately.

Linda Krop asked how the Navy would be affected by an outer island shift in the TSS. Steven Schwartz (DOD) suggested having the Navy give a presentation at a future SAC meeting to discuss how they are dealing with the shift in shipping traffic.

Russell Galipeau (NPS SAC Member) stated that the report has very useful information and recommendations, and believed the recommendations were broad enough to encompass all of the concerns and questions raised. Russell then made a motion to adopt the recommendations. Linda Krop agreed under the condition that the words "Santa Barbara Channel" are replaced with "Santa Barbara Channel region" in the recommendations.

Following these discussions, the Council voted unanimously to approve the recommendations.

Maria Petueli (SET SAC Member) provided an overview of SET ideas related to shipping industry outreach and education. The SET would appreciate any comments or thoughts from Council members as products and strategies continue to develop. In addition to the ship strike issue, the SET has also been working on ocean acidification.

Sanctuary Condition Report

Dani Lipski provided a powerpoint presentation (available upon request) summarizing the recently released Sanctuary Condition Report. She emphasized that this is not a decision-making tool but can inform the Sanctuary on where there are information gaps. Bob Warner reemphasized that the report is an aggregation of expert opinion, not the results of a long-term monitoring project. An electronic copy of the report can be found here: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/cinms/welcome.html>.

Educational Presentation: Trends in California Current Fish Stocks and Fishery Management

Bruce Steele (SAC Commercial Fishing Member) gave an information presentation about fishing, biological trends, fisheries management, related modeling, and local data on urchin recruitment. The Council asked many questions and there was a lengthy discussion on California fish stocks. The presentation is available upon request.

Ocean Acidification

Linda Krop (Conservation SAC Member) provided the Council with a brief update on the Conservation Working Group's ocean acidification (OA) planning activities. Chair Eric Kett mentioned that the OA report was very well received at the 2009 national Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit and has been supported around the country. Eric informed the council about upcoming showings of the film "A Sea Change" in Ventura on October 14th as part of the Shore to Sea public lecture series, and on October 27th in Santa Barbara. The Council then viewed a 20 minute documentary film "Acid Test" containing interviews with Council member Bruce Steele (viewable at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cqCvcX7buo>).

Public Comment

Chris Miller (local Lobster Fisherman), who helped with the Channel Islands marine reserves process through the SAC, made several recommendations through the fisheries seat:

- He recommended that the education program develop an agenda for supporting of the sanctuary's Man and the Biosphere designation;
- Given that the SAC is designated as the community oversight body for MPA monitoring at the Channel Islands, and that California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) John Ugoretz oversaw this but has now left to work for the Navy, this important vacancy needs to be filled;

- He would like the SAC to support the consideration of a vessel-of-opportunity policy for fishermen, administered through the CDFG, to help diversify businesses to non-consumptive uses.
- Co-management is a model for sustainability for the system, and he raised the question of how we can designate money for long-term monitoring programs; and
- Finally, he would like the SAC to tie into lessons learned for fisheries management.

Jessie Altstatt with Santa Barbara Channelkeeper commented that sightings of the invasive seaweed species *S. filicinum* were documented in September 2009 at the west and north end of Anacapa Island. The major concern is that this species could outcompete native species for space, and there is an immediate need to document the extent of its spread. The Park will be evaluating the situation in the following weeks. She is hopeful that this species won't take over, but there is uncertainty about what will happen. Control methods are unknown. Mark Steele further mentioned that mature plants of *S. filicinum* are large and cover a lot of area at Catalina. These plants provide shelter for small fish but are not known to provide good habitat.

Paul Petrich mentioned his recent trip to Croatia where he spent time visiting fishing villages and snorkeled in 5 marine reserves. Croatia is aware of the model for the Channel Islands marine reserves. They are also building off of CINMS education efforts in order to educate people about marine conservation.

Leslie Purcell expressed support for the recommendation made earlier that knowledge of nocturnal and diurnal activities of whales is important and would be a good education campaign for the Sanctuary Education Team (SET). Also, she stated that she is interested in the suggested presentation by the Navy.

Working Group Reports

No reports were provided from the Recreational Fishing Working Group, Research Activities Panel, or Commercial Fishing Working Group

CINMS Interagency Enforcement Working Group: Dayna Matthews reported on the meeting held on September 17th. In August, there was a press release on a Channel Islands marine reserves enforcement case. Incursion into marine reserves was first observed by a Coast Guard helicopter, and the vessel was identified. CDFG responded on scene. The NOAA Office for Law Enforcement pursued the case, and a \$10,000 fine was levied. The Lieutenant that responded to this case was at the recent Enforcement Working Group meeting and provided lessons learned. If a Coast Guard boat patrol guide for CINMS was available at the time of this case, similar to a guide that exists for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, it would have been beneficial. Danya also discussed the upcoming lobster season and that the squid fishery has been doing well. Additionally, a small subcommittee was created to address the issue of vessel groundings.

CINMS Sanctuary Education Team

Maria Petueli reiterated that the SET would appreciate feedback on their ideas related to shipping industry education and outreach.

Chumash Community Working Group

While there were no representatives present from this working group, Todd Jacobs reported that the tomol crossing earlier in the month was canceled due to weather. Despite this, the Chumash gathering on Santa Cruz Island was a success.

Conservation Working Group

Linda Krop reported that the Conservation Working Group met on September 16th. They reviewed ship strike avoidance recommendations, reviewed ocean acidification progress, were briefed on the MLPA process, and discussed other miscellaneous items.

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council -- Meeting Attendance Roster
(September 18, 2009):**

Kathleen Fitzgerald	Tourism	Present
Andrea Moe	Tourism - Alternate	Absent
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Perry Ferguson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Absent
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Present
Vacant	Business - Alternate	
Linda Krop	Conservation	Absent
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Present
Vacant	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Maria Petueli	Education	Present
Jose Chicote	Education - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Present
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
Phyllis Grifman [Council Secretary]	Public At Large #1	Absent
Amy Spandrio	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Absent
Eric Kett [Council Chair]	Public At Large #2	Present
Dan Powell	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Absent
Jacy Ontiveros	Chumash Community	Absent
Alan Salazar	Chumash Community - Alternate	Absent
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Absent
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Present
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
Vacant	National Park Service - Alternate	
CDR Jason Collins	US Coast Guard	Present
LTJG Brittany Steward	US Coast Guard - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Fred Piltz	Minerals Management Service	Absent
Donna Schroeder	Minerals Management Service - Alternate	Absent
Steven Schwartz	Dept. of Defense	Present
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
Marija Vojkovich	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	Present
John Ugoretz	CA Dept. of Fish & Game - Alternate	Absent
Brian Baird	CA Natural Resources Agency	Absent
Amy Boone	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Barbara Carey	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Absent
Dianne M. Black	Santa Barbara County	Present
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Absent
Lyn Krieger	Ventura County	Absent
Marilyn Miller	Ventura County - Alternate	Present
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	Absent
Maria Brown	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Brian Johnson	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent